

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 026811
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08
/098 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. BROWN (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MS. GRIFFIN
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
S/S:SGOLDSMITH

-----060359Z 073247 /67

O 060304Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 026811

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 026811

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - FEBRUARY 4

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR FEBRUARY 4,
1977:

Q. HAVE YOU BEEN DOING THAT IN THE SUDAN TOO? ARE YOU
STILL IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH SUDAN IN TRYING TO ASSIST IN
BRINGING TO JUSTICE THE MURDERERS OF AMBASSADOR NOEL AND
MR. MOORE?

A. I AM NOT INFORMED ON WHAT WE ARE DOING WITH REGARD TO
THE SUDAN MURDERERS.
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 026811

Q. THEY'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING, ARE THEY?

A. I SIMPLY DO NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT. I AM NOT
INFORMED.

Q. ARE THEY STILL IN JAIL?

A. THEY ARE IN JAIL. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THEY ARE STILL
IN JAIL IN EGYPT.

Q. FRED, ARE THE ARMS FOR ISRAEL THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAD
PROMISED AND YOU SPOKE ABOUT STILL BEING IN THE TECHNICAL
PROCESS SOMEWAY AT THE PENTAGON -- WHERE DO WE STAND ON
THAT NOW?

A. I UNDERSTAND THE LETTERS OF OFFER ARE IN THIS BUILDING
AT THE MOMENT.

Q. OH, THEY ARE?

A. THAT IS ALL I HAVE ON IT.YES.

Q. FROM THE PENTAGON?

A. YES.

Q. WHAT'S GOING ON, ON IT?

A. I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS.

Q. TECHNICALLY, WHAT HAPPENS? ARE ALL THE WEAPONS FOR WHICH LETTERS OF OFFER WOULD BE APPROPRIATE?

A. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT IS ALL OF THEM; I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK. I DO KNOW THAT SOME, AT LEAST SOME AND PERHAPS UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 026811

ALL THE LETTERS OF OFFER ARE IN THE BUILDING.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY "ALL," ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ALL THE ISRAELI ONES OR ALL THE VARIOUS, MISCELLANEOUS ONES?

A. NO. WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE PACKAGE THAT WAS DISCUSSED HERE ABOUT A WEEK OR TEN DAYS AGO, AND THE STATUS OF IT.

Q. WHAT ARE THEY DOING IN THIS BUILDING?

A. THAT'S PART OF THE PROCESS.

Q. WHERE DO THEY GO UP TO, SECURITY?

A. WELL, CERTAINLY T AND PM WOULD BE INVOLVED, PLUS OTHER OFFICES, I'M SURE.

Q. WELL, PM IS A MATTER OF BUREAUCRATIC PROCESSING?

A. YES.

Q. T IS NOW SUPPOSED TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE---

A. ---FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE, YES.

Q. FOR DECISION, THE POLICY DECISIONS, THAT IS THEIR RESPONSIBILITY, ISN'T THAT SO?

A. THE DECISION, I'M SURE, WILL BE MADE AT A HIGH LEVEL. A NUMBER OF BUREAUS GET INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS IN THIS BUILDING.

Q. FREDDIE, COULD YOU GIVE US A WORKING GUESS, OR AN EDUCATED GUESS -- WHATEVER GUESS YOU CAN GIVE US -- AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE PACKAGE WILL BE, THE LETTERS OF UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 026811

OFFER WILL BE SENT TO CONGRESS BEFORE THE SECRETARY GOES TO THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. I WOULDN'T WANT TO GUESS, JOE. I AM SIMPLY NOT IN A POSITION TO SPECULATE ON IT.

Q. ALL RIGHT. MAY I GO TO ANOTHER QUESTION, PLEASE? THERE HAS BEEN ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT, ON THE WIRE TODAY ABOUT COMMODITIES, \$60 MILLION WORTH. I BELIEVE THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, THE HOUSE, THE SUBCOMMITTEE, AGREED TO TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS TO FOOD FOR 190 MILLION. AND IN THE COURSE OF THIS, REPRESENTATIVE CLARENCE LONG, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE, SAID THAT EGYPT---HE QUESTIONED THIS WHOLE MATTER OF FOOD OR COMMODITIES FOR EGYPT, WHEN HE SAID 25 PERCENT OF EGYPT'S GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT IS GOING FOR ARMS. COULD WE HAVE SOMETHING FROM YOU, FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT, ON HOW MUCH AID EGYPT HAS RECEIVED FROM THE UNITED STATES IN THE LAST TWO YEARS FROM BOTH AID, COMMODITIES, PL 480, AND IF YOU CAN, THE ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY IMF, WORLD BANK AND THAT WHOLE WORLD BANK GROUP, SO WE KNOW WHERE WE STAND ON ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT?

A. JOE, PERHAPS YOU SAW THE ANSWER TO A QUESTION WHICH WE POSTED A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO, AND THE FIGURE FOR FY 77 IS 900-AND SOME MILLION DOLLARS. THAT COUNTS PL 480 AND ASSISTANCE ADMINISTERED BY AID. NOW, FOR FISCAL YEAR 76 I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK. I AM SURE WE CAN GIVE YOU THE FIGURES ON THAT LATER THIS AFTERNOON.

Q. CAN YOU GET THE WORLD BANK GROUP FIGURES AS WELL?

A. I WILL TRY TO GET THAT.

Q. THIS RELATES TO THIS WHOLE THING ON THE MIDDLE EAST. THE OTHER QUESTION IS THAT THE SECRETARY YESTERDAY, IN UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 026811

HIS INTERVIEW WITH AP AND UPI, WAS ASKED WHETHER THEM, MEANING WITH RELATION TO WHAT HE CALLED THE LEGITIMATE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, RELATED TO THE PALESTINIANS, OR WHO? AND HE SAID "THE PARTIES," AND HE DIDN'T DEFINE THEM. ARE YOU PREPARED TO GO A LITTLE FURTHER ON THAT TODAY OR---

A. NO, JOE. HE WAS ASKED---"WELL, DO THEIR LEGITIMATE INTERESTS INCLUDE NATIONHOOD?" AND HE REPLIED, "WELL, THAT IS UP TO THEM TO DECIDE HOW THAT MIGHT BE DONE."

Q. "EXCUSE ME. WHEN YOU SAY 'THEM,' DO YOU MEAN THE PARTIES OR DO YOU MEAN THE PALISTINIANS?"

A. THE PARTIES.

Q. WELL, WHO ARE THE PARTIES?

A. THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE PALESTINIAN ISSUES, WHICH IS PART OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM.

Q. WELL, THAT WOULD INCLUDE THE WHOLE GAMUT OF ALL THE NATIONS IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, SAUDI-ARABIA, LEBANON, THE SOVIET UNION, RED CHINA, AND SO ON.

A. WELL, THE SECRETARY DIDN'T GO FARTHER THAN THAT-- HE SAID, "THE PARTIES"--AND I DON'T THINK I WILL.

Q. CAN I ASK A MIDDLE EAST QUESTION? THE AMERICAN FRIENDS COMMITTEE HAS CIRCULATED NOTICES OF A CONFERENCE-- I BELIEVE IT IS NEXT WEEKEND--ON THE MIDDLE EAST, AND ONE OF THE FEATURED SPEAKERS IN THERE ADVANCE INFORMATION IS SABRI JIRYIS, WHO WAS THE SUBJECT OF SOME DISCUSSION HERE A WHILE AGO AS A PLO REPRESENTATIVE WHO WAS ASKED UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 026811

TO LEAVE OSTENSIBLY BECAUSE HIS VISA APPLICATION HAD AN ERRONEOUS BIRTH PLACE. DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW IF HE IS BEING GIVEN A NEW ENTRY VISA TO COME TO THIS COUNTRY?

A. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. WILL YOU TRY TO FIND OUT?

A. I WILL LOOK INTO IT.

Q. CAN I ASK TWO BUREAUCRATIC-TYPE QUESTIONS? ONE: THE WHITE HOUSE HAS SET UP THIS BOARD TO JUDGE ON AMBAS-SADORIAL NOMINEES.

A. YES.

Q. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE NUMEROUS AMBASSADORS NOW IN THE FIELD? ARE THEY ALL BEING LOOKED AT AGAIN, OR-- HOW DOES IT WORK? EVERYONE HAS, THEORETICALLY, RESIGNED NOW; EVERYONE LEFT IN THE FIELD HAS RESIGNED TO PRESIDENT CARTER, OR HAS OFFERED HIS RESIGNATION TO PRESIDENT CARTER.

A. THAT'S RIGHT.

Q. WILL THE NEW ADMINISTRATION LOOK ANEW IN EVERY POST, OR WILL IT BE "PICK AND CHOOSE" LIKE OLD ADMINISTRATIONS?

A. YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE PRESIDENTIAL BOARD THAT WAS SET UP?

Q. YES. I MEAN, I HAVE NO IDEA HOW MANY AMBASSADORS ARE ON-STATION NOW. I ASSUME THAT MOST OF THEM ARE.

A. MOST OF THEM ARE. I HAPPEN TO HAVE SEEN THE LIST OF UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 026811

AMBASSADORS IN WASHINGTON ON CONSULTATION LAST WEEK AND THERE ARE VERY FEW AT THE MOMENT.

Q. WELL, I DON'T MEAN THAT. HOW MANY POSTS ARE VACANT? I THINK MOST POSTS HAVE AMBASSADORS NOW.

A. YES, MOST DO, BUT IF I UNDERSTAND CORRECTLY, THE PURPOSE OF THIS ADVISORY BOARD IS TO EXAMINE NEW CANDIDATES FOR ASSIGNMENT, NOT TO LOOK AT AMBASSADORS ALREADY ON DUTY.

Q. WHAT I'M TRYING TO GET -- IS THERE ANY POLICY AT ALL ON THE REPLACEMENT OF CURRENT AMBASSADORS? OR WILL THE BOARD LOOK AT THE CURRENT AMBASSADOR AND SEE IF HE SHOULD BE REPLACED, OR NOT?

A. I DON'T THINK THAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE BOARD. THE BOARD, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, IS TO FIND THE BEST POSSIBLE PEOPLE TO GO TO OUR POSTS ABROAD---

Q. RIGHT. WELL, WHAT ABOUT ON THE SPECIFIC CASE OF, SAY -- I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE A CERTAIN NUMBER OF POLITICAL APPOINTEES IN THE PAST ADMINISTRATIONS---

A. YES.

Q. (CONTINUING) -- WHO WOULD NORMALLY EXPECT TO BE REPLACED, WHAT ABOUT THE GREAT NUMBER OF CAREER AMBASSADORS WHO ARE STATIONED ABROAD? WHAT WILL BE THEIR STATUS? IN OTHER WORDS, WILL THEY BE REPLACED AUTOMATICALLY OR---

A. NO, IT IS NOT AUTOMATIC.

Q. WHAT IF THEY ARE THE BEST POSSIBLE CANDIDATE FOR THAT UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 09 STATE 026811

POST?

A. YOU KNOW THERE ARE CERTAIN POSTS THAT TRADITIONALLY HAVE BEEN OPEN TO STAFFING BY NON-CAREER PERSONS. SOMETIMES THEY ARE STAFFED BY CAREER, OTHER TIMES BY NON-CAREER.

Q. ALL RIGHT. LET ME ASK THE SPECIFIC QUESTION: THIS IS, OBVIOUSLY, GOBBLYDYGOOK. WHAT IS THIS ADMINISTRATION'S VIEW ON THE STATUS OF MALCOME TOON, OUR CURRENT AMBASSADOR TO THE SOVIET UNION, WHO WAS APPOINTED IN THE LAST DAYS OF THE OUTGOING ADMINISTRATION, AFTER SOME "FLAP" WHICH WAS EVEN DISCUSSED HERE ON HIS AGREEMENT BEING DELAYED, ET CETERA? IS IT THE INTENTION OF THIS ADMINISTRATION TO KEEP MR. TOON IN FOR A REGULAR TOUR OF DUTY, OR TO HAVE HIM REPLACED BY ITS OWN CANDIDATE?

A. I HAVE NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON AMBASSADOR TOON, BUT I WOULD NOTE THAT MOSCOW IS ONE EMBASSY THAT, IN RECENT ADMINISTRATIONS, HAS BEEN STAFFED WITH A CAREER FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER.

Q. MAY I ASK ONE LAST QUESTION? SINCE THE QUESTION HAS BEEN RAISED ABOUT THE FRIENDS' COMMITTEE AND THE PALESTINIAN WHO LIED TO GET AN AMERICAN VISA BEFORE, I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW THE MORE IMPORTANT POINT, IN VIEW OF THE COMMITTEE'S FEELINGS, AS TO WHERE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT NOW STANDS, AND HAS STOOD, ON THE QUESTION OF RESOLUTION 242 AND ISRAEL'S BOUNDARIES? I SUBMIT THE QUESTION TO YOU BECAUSE ONLY ON ABC ON SUNDAY, THIS MATTER WAS BROUGHT UP, AND I BELIEVE ERRONEOUSLY. SO, I THINK IT OUGHT TO BE CLEARED UP BEFORE THE COMMITTEE MEETS AND A LOT OF ITS PROPAGANDA STARTS FLOATING AROUND ABOUT ISRAEL AND ITS FRONTIERS AND THE US POSITION. SO, IF YOU CAN GET US THAT, IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 10 STATE 026811

A. O.K.

VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MURDER, PRESS CONFERENCES, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE026811
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/P:EOJONES
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770042-0667
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197702100/baaaevfd.tel
Line Count: 369
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 264c1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3233433
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - FEBRUARY 4
TAGS: PFOR, SU, US, XF
To: BEIRUT CAIRO MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/264c1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009